(b) what measures Government are taking to implement these suggestions and rectify the deficiencies pointed out by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) Television as a visual media is relatively of a recent origin. However, it has immense potentialities for education and information coupled with entertainment. Since the media has to cater to a wide section of the society whose tastes and likings vary, Doordarshan is continuously making endeavours to bring about changes in its programme formats to sustain the interest of the viewers. The letters of the Prime Minister is basically in the nature of suggestions for bringing about improvements in the various programmes of Doordorshan. The suggestions *inter-alia* lay emphasis on greater diversity in programmes, shorter features, production of serials depicting the history and culture of ancient India, improvement in the quality of news and current affairs, need for building up good TV personalities of tough interviewers, making the weather bulletins more informative with scientific contents and tips to farmers in layman's language.

These suggestions are being examined in consultation with Directorate General, Doordarshan for bringing about modifications in the existing formats of the programmes with a view to improve the quality of the programmes which in fact has been the main emphasis of the Prime Minister's letter.

Debarring Ministers for holding offices in Trade Unions

*450. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Govt. are confemplating to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 debarring the Central/State Ministers from holding offices in the trade unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): The proposal to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926 for providing that no Minister shall be a member of the executive or office bearer of a trade union requires detailed examination in consultation with the interests concerned. The Government has not yet taken a decision in the matter.

Horticulture development

*451. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outlay for horticulture development during the Sixth Five-Year Plan;

(b) what is the allocation for horticulture during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government for the development of horticulture during the Seventh Five-Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) During the Sixth Plan period, an outlay of Rs. 17.19 crore was provided for development of horticulture in the Central Plan. A total of Rs. 25 crore has been allocated for horticulture development in the Central Plan during the Eeventh Five-Year Plan;

(c) The following steps are proposed for development of horticulture during Seventh Plan period:—

(1) Intensification of research on horticultural crops;

(2) Extension of area under fruit and nut trees of outstanding merit;